

Taiwan remains important to the United States in its advocacy of true democratic values across the world and its success in sustaining a dynamic multi-party system revealing its commitment to protecting political rights and freedoms.

In troubled times such as these, it is also gratifying to know that there are countries that continue to put forth efforts that provide constructive solutions for highly divisive issues.

The bond between the United States and Taiwan, cemented by the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances, remains strong.

I reaffirm those bonds today, and again congratulate the people of Taiwan on this important occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS HOME RULE ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Public-Private Partnerships Home Rule Act. This bill would clarify the District of Columbia's authority to enter into public-private partnerships (P3s), like other jurisdictions in the United States. This bill makes it clear that the federal Anti-Deficiency Act (ADA), which uniquely applies to the District, does not prohibit the District from entering into P3s. This bill provides legal certainty that the District may enter into multi-year contracts to design, construct, improve, maintain, operate, manage and/or finance projects procured pursuant to a local D.C. law, the Public-Private Partnership Act of 2014. The District recently began the procurement process for its first-ever P3s: rehabilitating the Metropolitan Police Department headquarters (Henry J. Daly Building) and modernizing streetlights.

Federal law potentially limits the authority of only one jurisdiction, the District of Columbia, to enter into P3s. The federal government, many states and other countries have used P3s. There is no reason that the District should not be able to take advantage of this option. Among other benefits, P3s will free up District funds for pressing needs, such as education and health care, that would otherwise be spent on infrastructure.

The federal ADA prohibits the federal and D.C. governments from obligating or expending funds in advance or in excess of an appropriation. If the District could use P3s, it would not have to appropriate all the funds upfront, freeing up funds for the District to spend on other matters. An ADA violation may occur if the District terminates a P3 contract. Under P3 contracts, the District would make payments on an annual basis over the life of a contract, and the District would appropriate the funds for such payments annually. However, upon termination, the District would have to pay all the costs incurred up to that point, but would not yet have appropriated all the funds for such payments, potentially causing an ADA violation.

Under D.C. law,

a 'public-private partnership' means the method in the District for delivering a qualified project using a long-term, performance-

based agreement between a public entity and a private entity or entities where appropriate risks and benefits can be allocated in a cost-effective manner between the public and private entities in which:

(A) A private entity performs functions normally undertaken by the government, but the public entity remains ultimately accountable for the qualified project and its public function; and

(B) The District may retain ownership or control in the project asset and the private entity may be given additional decision-making rights in determining how the asset is financed, developed, constructed, operated, and maintained over its life cycle.

This bill is an important step to increase home rule for the District, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

MARY ELLEN TRAIL ROSS EARNS GOLD MEDAL FROM GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mary Ellen Trail Ross, Dr. P.H., M.S.N., R.N. of Fort Bend County, who was awarded a gold medal from the Good Samaritan Foundation.

Ross began her teaching career at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) Cizik School of Nursing 30 years ago. She has taught 17 different courses. Her work has helped students and faculty alike. Her dedication has resulted in a gold medal in the "Nursing Education: Faculty" category at the Good Samaritan Foundation's 2018 "Excellence in Nursing" Awards ceremony. Nurses are nominated by their peers for exemplifying excellence in teaching, mentoring and leadership. Ross credits the foundation in helping her achieve her own goals, as she received their scholarship funds during her time as a graduate student. She is passionate about educating future nurses.

On behalf of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Mary Ellen Trail Ross for earning a gold medal from the Good Samaritan Foundation. Her contributions to the field of medicine as well education make our community proud.

TRIBUTE TO BUDDY SCOTTO

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Buddy Scotto, a longtime friend, community member and local leader from Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn. For decades, Buddy's commitment to serving the community he loves has led many neighbors and friends to nickname him as the unofficial Mayor of Carroll Gardens.

Buddy's family came to Carroll Gardens as Italian immigrants to Brooklyn. The family quickly became known in the community as they started a funeral-home business, a wine business, and later, four movie theaters.

After graduating from the original St. Francis College, Buddy served in the Korean War.

When his parents were nearing retirement, Buddy returned home to obtain his Funeral Directors License. When many of his peers were leaving Brooklyn for suburbs in Long Island, Buddy's deep sense of connection to Brooklyn and care for his community led him to become a champion for local causes.

Among his many areas of advocacy, Buddy has fought for affordable housing for seniors and low-income families, while also advocating to clean up the Gowanus Canal. In 1971, he founded the Carroll Gardens Association which helps advocate for affordable housing and local business growth. In 1978, Buddy founded the Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation, a non-profit focused on revitalizing the canal, organizing public meetings and expanding affordable housing. He also helped found the Eileen Dugan Senior Center, an important anchor for the community.

On the very special occasion of his 90th birthday this year, I would like to thank Buddy for everything he has done and continues to do for the Carroll Gardens community. The neighborhood would not be the same without him.

THE RETIREMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL DAVID JOHNSON, USN

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize and congratulate an outstanding Naval Officer, Vice Admiral David C. Johnson, for the successful completion of 36 years of distinguished Naval service, culminating with his position as the Principal Military Deputy for the Assistant Secretary of the Navy Research, Development and Acquisition. I commend Vice Admiral Johnson on his achievements and recognize his devotion to our great nation.

A 1982 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Admiral Johnson earned his Engineering Duty Officer Dolphins in 1986 and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1989 with a Naval Engineer degree and a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He has devoted most of his career to the design, construction, repair, maintenance, modernization and sustainment of the nation's submarine force. During his career, he served as the Program Executive Officer for Submarines, the Commander for the Naval Undersea Warfare Center, the Deputy Commander for Undersea Technology, the Major Program Manager for Virginia Class Submarines, an Assistant Program Manager for Seawolf Class Submarines, the Program Manager's Representative at the new construction shipyard, a Project Officer, a Ship Superintendent and as Planning and Docking Officer.

During Admiral Johnson's tour as Program Executive Officer for Submarines, he managed over \$50 billion in funding across the Future Years Defense Plan for the research, design, acquisition and in-service support of the Navy's undersea force. In addition to accepting delivery of five Virginia Class submarines ahead of schedule and under cost, he led the Defense Department's highest priority acquisition program, the Columbia Class ballistic missile submarine, through critical development